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BUNGAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1954

Medical Officer of Health until 10th October 1954:

DR. J.B. KERSHAW. M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health from 10th October 1954 to 14th March

DR. ARTHUR C. GEE. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Lowestoft & District Medical Officer,
Connaught House,
High Street,
Lowestoft.

Medical Officer of Health from 14th March 1955:

DR. P.G. CANNON. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

MR. A.J. COOPER.

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BUNGAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nursey, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1954, during which year, until 10th October, Dr. J. B. Kershaw was your Medical Officer of Health.

The rates which are among the most sensitive indices to the social conditions of an area are:-

1. The Infantile Mortality Rate, which here is NIL.
2. The Death Rate of children aged one to two years is NIL
3. The Death Rate due to tuberculosis, which here is NIL, and incidentally much reduced throughout the Country.
4. The Standardised (adjusted) Death Rate, which here is slightly higher than that for England and Wales in general.

Regarding the other statistics, the number of births has risen from last year, but is still lower than the national average.

The number of deaths has increased considerably this year. The importance of malignant disease is seen, as 2% of the deaths were due to this cause. Malignant disease generally occurs in the aged, and with an ageing population the incidence naturally increases. Nevertheless, it may be that there is an actual increase throughout the Country.

The infectious disease position was fairly satisfactory for 1954. The Measles outbreak occurred in the first part of the year and a large part of the susceptible population was affected. Measles in the healthy, well nutritioned child is mainly a mild illness. Its importance is in the poorly fed child who tends to develop complications.

Scarlet Fever occurred towards the end of the year. Some years ago Scarlet Fever could be a serious illness causing lasting damage. Its danger has lessened, but the condition is still worthy of some respect, as it is possible that the character of the disease may alter.

A considerable number of cases of Pneumonia occurred in 1954, possibly due to the hard weather conditions.

The position regarding Tuberculosis became worse during the year. Three new cases occurred. It is a matter for concern that the incidence of tuberculosis has not decreased much in England and Wales, although the mortality has considerably decreased, due to more effective treatment now possible.

This year I have introduced a table showing the figures for tuberculosis in Bungay compared with my other areas. One point to note, of course, is that where there are only small numbers to be dealt with, then one cannot state absolutely that one area is worse than another.

Two other matters are worthy of note:-

(a) From 1st October, 1954, by Government Order, it was made compulsory to provide caps or covers overlapping the lips of containers of pasteurised milk, and also milk distributors were required to put milk which is pasteurised into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the consumer at the premises at which it is pasteurised. These measures are progressive and welcome.

(b) On 3rd July 1954, the Government control of slaughtering ceased and private slaughtering was re-instituted. During the transition period, the Council was required to see that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available for the needs of the district. A survey of slaughterhouses was carried out and consultations with the organisations representing farmers and meat traders were arranged. As a result of this 2 private slaughterhouses were licensed compared with 3 pre-war.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P.G.CANNON.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area	2642 Acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (Mid 1954)	3530
No. of inhabited houses	1226
Rateable Value	£18,960
Product of Penny Rate	£76.9.0

VITAL STATISTICS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births (Illegitimate)	32 (1)	18 (1)	50 (2)
Illegitimacy Rate		= 40	
Illegitimacy Rate (England and Wales)		= 46	per 1,000 live births
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		= 14.2	
Adjusted Birth Rate		= 14.5	(Comparability factor 1.02)
Birth Rate (England and Wales)		= 15.2	

Note on Adjusted Birth Rate

Local birth rates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower, and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar-General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

<u>Still Births:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	-	2	2

Still birth rate (per 1,000 live births) = 40
Still birth rate for England and Wales 24.0 (per 1,000 total live and still births)

Maternal Mortality: - Nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Nil
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales) = 25.5
(Lowest ever recorded in England and Wales)

<u>Deaths:</u> (all Causes)	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	22	30	52

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population = 14.7
Adjusted Death Rate (comparable to England and Wales.) = 12.2
(Comparability Factor = 0.83)
Death Rate (England and Wales) = 11.3

Note:- This comparability factor is obtained, and used, on similar principle to that for comparability factor for Births.

<u>Causes of Death:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
" " lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Other " and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5	6
Coronary disease, angina	6	5	11
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	3	3	6
" circulatory disease	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3
Other defined and illdefined diseases	-	4	4
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	-	1	1
	<u>22</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>52</u>

Accidents:- Accidental poisoning in old person.

<u>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS:</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Population	3521	3648	3483	3479	3497	3530
No. of inhabited houses	1001	1134	1170	1195	1216	1226
No. of live births	47	33	53	56	47	50
Birth rate (crude)	13.3	9.3	15.2	16.1	13.4	14.2
No. of still births	0	0	3	0	0	2
Maternal mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infantile mortality rate (No. of deaths)	29.8 (2)	90.9 (3)	0 0	35.7 (2)	21.3 (1)	0 (0)
Number of deaths (all ages)	52	50	43	51	41	52
Death rate (crude)	14.8	14.09	12.3	14.6	11.7	14.7

Infectious Disease:

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	20	16	36
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Measles	102	103	205
Acute Pneumonia	8	5	13
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	1
	<u>132</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>256</u>

Measles: A large outbreak of measles occurred in the first part of the year; all but 7 of the cases were notified in the first quarter.

Pneumonia: All but 3 of the cases were notified during the first quarter of the year. Pneumonia is, of course, mainly a seasonal illness.

Scarlet Fever: The outbreak occurred mainly in the third quarter of the year. (25 notifications were received during that period)

Diphtheria immunisation:

The following are the figures for Bungay:

During 1954, 68 primary immunisations were carried out in Bungay at the Welfare Clinic and by the General Practitioners.

The ages of the children immunised are as follows:

Children born in 1954	-	19 immunised	
"	"	1953	- 36 "
"	"	1952	- 4 "
"	"	1951	- 1 "
"	"	1950	- 2 "
"	"	1949	- 1 "
"	"	1948	- 2 "
"	"	1947	- 2 "
"	"	1946	- 1 "

During 1954, 25 Booster doses were given.

The importance of immunisation against Diphtheria is to be stressed, as although there is a much less incidence, it does occur, and will increase if immunisation is not carried out on a large enough scale.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough can be carried out by three injections (one at monthly intervals) of the one material and gives little or no ill-effects. It can be started at age 3 - 4 months.

Vaccination is still recommended in all infants, particularly males. With new technique, there should be no harmful effects to the child.

Tuberculosis:

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	
No. of cases on Register at beginning of year	13	3	11	7	34
No. of cases added during year	2	-	-	2	4
No. of cases removed "	-	1	-	2	3
No. of cases on Register at end of year	15	2	11	7	35

Cases added to the Register:

New notifications 3
Inward transfers
(cases from other areas coming to Bungay) 1

Cases removed from the Register:

Removed to other areas 3.

<u>Comparative Figures of Tuberculosis:</u>	<u>Popn.</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>			<u>Cases per 1,000 Popn.</u>
		<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Beccles Municipal Borough	7050	25	14	39	5.5
Blyth Rural District	19400	58	21	79	4.1
Bungay Urban District	3530	26	9	35	9.9
Halesworth Urban District	2270	14	3	17	7.5
Leiston-Cum-Sizewell U.D.	4130	20	5	25	6.1
Wainford Rural District	6830	14	12	26	3.8

Food Poisoning: No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1947: No action was taken under this Act during the year.

Hardness as CaCO_3 :

Total:	320
Carbonate (Temporary):	215
Non-Carbonate (Permanent):	105
Alkalinity as CaCO_3 :	215
Free Carbon dioxide:	50
Total Solids (at 180°C):	525
Iron (Total):	Nil
Metals in Solution:	Nil

Bacteriological results:

Number of colonies developing per ml. in 48 hours at 37°C = 1

Presumptive coliform Organisms - probable number per 100 ml. = 0

B. COLI TYPE 1. (FÆCAL): Absent

Opinion:

The Organic quality of this water is good and its Bacteriological condition is Highly Satisfactory. The free carbonic acid in the water is more than is required to balance the chalk in solution, so that the reaction of the water is just on the acid side of neutrality, consequently it might have a corrosive action on metals. The hardness is moderate, about two-thirds being temporary. In our opinion this water is fit for drinking and general purposes and for the use as a public supply, subject to the reservation about the possibility of corrosive action as noted above.

(Signed) ERIC C.WOOD. D.A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

For Lincolne Sutton & Wood.

Properties which receive piped supplies into house	=	95%
" " " supply by stand pipe	=	4.5%
" without supply	=	.5%

Water Treatment:

Chlorination of the water supply is effected by the injection of liquid chlorine at the source, Outney Common water works. The liquid chlorine is injected at the rate of 0.03 lbs to each 10,000 gallons of water pumped. There was no shortage of supply at the source.

The amount of water pumped during the year ending 31st December 1954 =
= 46,120,000 Gallons.

Daily Average consumption, all purposes = 126,356 gallons Per Day
Total Rainfall during year 1954 = 24.87 inches
Highest monthly rainfall - November 1954 = 4.78 inches

Bulk Supplies:

Water was supplied in bulk to parishes within the Wainford and Loddon Rural Districts. During the year extensive works were completed to increase the yeild at the headworks, Outney Common, in order to afford a direct bulk supply to five parishes within the Loddon Rural District. Extensions were made to 4" Water mains for further development of the St.Mary's Field Building site.

Sewerage and Sewage disposal:

The majority of the town is adequately sewered, but there are still 34 properties not so provided, which are principally situated in isolated positions on the outskirts of the town, or levels do not permit their being connected to the sewers.

Most of the 34 properties referred to are provided with pail closets which are emptied by the Council's Scavenging staff, each Wednesday evening. It is hoped that with the continuance of the Council's building programme, that these mediaeval sanitary conditions will be considerably reduced. Five properties which discharged sewage into the River Waveney were being investigated with view to connection to the mains sewers.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse:

Collection is carried out weekly from all dwellings in the town with the exception of a few isolated properties situated on the outskirts. Refuse is also collected from business premises each Saturday morning.

Disposal of refuse is made at the Council tip at Ollands Plantation.

The refuse tip already having reached over capacity, it is urgently necessary that another site be obtained at the earliest opportunity.

In order to ensure that the refuse tip does not become a source of major rat infestation, monthly inspections and treatment have been carried out, at no time was the tip found to be grossly infested.

Notices were served upon the owners of three properties for the provision of new Sanitary Dustbins, and in each case informal action sufficed to secure compliance.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949:

The fulfilment of the Council's responsibility under this Act is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

One Rodent Operator is employed part-time. Sewer disinfection is carried out at six monthly intervals, by a reciprocal assistance arrangement between myself and the Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Beccles.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control division are responsible for the co-ordination of Anti-Rodent work, and pay half the total expenses.

The introduction of the poison 'Warfarin', which I first began to use during 1954, represented a great advance over other forms of treatment for surface infestations.

The degree of infestation in Sewers has progressively improved, and the population of rats therein systematically reduced.

Business premises were inspected from time to time for Rodent infestation, and private dwelling houses as and when requested by the occupant or owner.

Business premises treated for rodent disinfection	=	12
Private dwelling houses	=	47

Shops Act 1950, Section 38.

There are 90 shops within the Urban district, and during the year 1953, the responsibility for inspections under this Act were delegated to the Local Authority.

The proprietors of 6 shops are holders of exemption Certificates issued by the Council.

Shops found to be without adequate Sanitary Conveniences	=	2
" " " " " Washing Facilities	=	3
" " " " " Heating Arrangements	=	1

Notices to remedy these defects were served and complied with.

Periodical inspection of Shops, Stalls, Vehicles, Restaurant and Hotel kitchens, and premises where food was being prepared, have in all cases given satisfaction as to the standard of cleanliness. The fish stall in the Market Place continues to be a source of offensive odour, and, concerning which, I still receive complaints, particularly during hot weather, from residents, and from the shop-keepers in the vicinity in particular.

Condemned Foods:

During the year it was found necessary to condemn the following foods as unfit for consumption:-

<u>Tinned Foods:</u>	<u>Meat</u>	Luncheon Meat	=	60
		Calf Tongue	=	1
		Corned Beef	=	37
		Pork	=	1
	<u>Soup</u>		=	25

Tinned Foods Contd.

<u>Fish</u>	Salmon	= 1
<u>Fruit</u>	Damsons	= 7
	Plums	= 1
<u>Milk</u>		= 1
<u>Peas</u>		= 21
<u>Cheese</u>		= 11 lbs.

Meat:

In July, private slaughtering was again permitted in suitable and licensed premises. There are two licensed slaughter houses within the Urban district. All animals killed locally have been notified and inspected before sale to the public. Only pigs were killed in local slaughter houses.

No. of pig carcasses inspected	= 54
Quantity condemned	NIL

There were no cattle or sheep killed within the Urban district during the year, these animals are killed in outside slaughter-houses and inspected before despatch.

Milk:

Sampling of the milk from the herds of producers was undertaken by the County Council's Sanitary Inspector, as in previous years. Samples taken were in all cases satisfactory.

As Bungay is a designated Area retailers are only permitted to sell pasteurised or T.T. milk.

Food & Drugs (Other than Milk):

4 samples were taken all of which were satisfactory.

Ice Cream:

There are 17 premises in the town registered for the sale of Ice cream, two of which are manufacturers, and these two premises conform in all respects to the requirements under the heat treatment regulations, 1947/8. The remaining 15 premises are concerned only with the sale of pre-packed blocks which are delivered into the town by bulk manufacturers.

Routine visits have been made to retailers of Ice Cream, and I am satisfied that these preparations are hygienically served.

Housing Act 1949:

The Council adopted the principle of making improvement grants to the owners of suitable properties.

No. of grants approved during 1954 = 4

Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954:

The Sanitary Inspector was delegated to inspect properties within the Urban District and to complete a return of the state of housing generally to the Ministry of Health by 31st August, 1955.

Public Health Act 1936:

Number of houses inspected at invitation of tenant	=	12
" " notices served upon owners	=	12
" " notices complied with	=	12

Public Health Act 1936 Section 58:

Demolition of 2 houses on Staithes
" " 1 house in Nethergate St.
" " 1 " in Lower Olland St.

Housing:

No. of houses built under Contract for Urban District Council	=	19
" " flats	=	0
" " houses and flats built by private enterprise	=	6
Building programme for the Urban District Council for 1955	=	21
" " Private enterprise 1955	=	11
Number of houses owned by the Council to date	=	298
" " prefabs	=	20
" " flats	=	48
" " hutments hired	=	6
Total		<u>372</u>

Total number of dwellings within the Urban District = 1226.

I wish to conclude my report with an expression of appreciation of the support which the Chairman and members of the Housing & Health Committee have always afforded me, and to thank the Clerk of the Council and Medical Officer of Health for their advice and ready assistance at all times.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient Servant,

A.J.COOPER.

Sanitary Inspector.
13th September, 1955.